

Chiquitano language

Chiquitano (also *Bésiro* or *Tarapecosi*) is an indigenous language isolate spoken in the central region of Santa Cruz Department of eastern Bolivia and the state of Mato Grosso in Brazil.

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	Chiquitano
	<i>Besïro</i>
Native to	Bolivia, Brazil
Region	Santa Cruz (Bolivia); Mato Grosso (Brazil)
Ethnicity	47,100 Chiquitano people (2004) ^[1]
Native speakers	5,900 in Bolivia (2004) ^[1]
Language family	Language isolate
	Language codes
ISO 639-3	cax
Glottolog	chiq1248 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chiq1248) <div>Lomeriano-Ignaciano Chiquitano^[2]</div> sans1265 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sans1265) <div>Sansimoniano^[3]</div>

Classification

Chiquitano is usually considered to be a language isolate. Greenberg linked it to the Macro-Jê languages in his discredited proposal, which was never substantiated.

Kaufman (1994) suggests a relationship with the Bororoan languages,^[4] while Nikulin (2020) suggests that Chiquitano is a sister of Macro-Jê,^[5] as does Adelaar (2008).^[6]

Varieties

Mason (1950)

Mason (1950) lists:^[7]

Chiquito

- North (Chiquito)

- Manasí (Manacica)
- Penoki (Penokikia)
- Pinyoca; Kusikia
- Tao; Tabiica
- Churapa

Loukotka (1968)

According to Čestmír Loukotka (1968), dialects were *Tao (Yúnkarirsh)*, *Piñoco*, *Penoqui*, *Kusikia*, *Manasi*, *San Simoniano*, *Churapa*.^[8]

- **Tao (Yúnkarirsh)** - spoken at the old missions of San Rafael, Santa Ana, San Miguel, San Ignacio, San Juan, Santo Corazón, and Concepción, Bolivia.
- **Piñoco** - spoken at the missions of San Xavier, San José, and San José de Buenaventura.
- **Penoqui** - spoken at the old mission of San José.
- **Cusiquia** - once spoken north of the Penoqui tribe.
- **Manasi** - once spoken at the old missions of San Francisco Xavier and Concepción, Santa Cruz province.
- **San Simoniano** - now spoken in the Sierra de San Simón and the Danubio River.
- **Churapa** - spoken on the Piray River, Santa Cruz province.

Nikulin (2020)

Chiquitano varieties listed by Nikulin (2020):^[5]

- Chiquitano
 - **Bésiro** (also known as **Chiquitano Lomeriano**), spoken in the Lomerío region and in Concepción. Co-official status.
 - **Chiquitano Migueleño** (in San Miguel de Velasco and surroundings)
 - **Chiquitano Ignaciano** (in San Ignacio de Velasco and surroundings)
 - **Chiquitano Santiagueño** (in Santiago de Chiquitos)
- *Divergent varieties*
 - **Sansimoniano** (spoken in the far northeast of Beni Department)
 - **Piñoco** (formerly spoken in the missions of San José de los Boros, San Francisco Xavier de los Piñoca, and San José de Buenavista/Desposorios; see *also* Jesuit Missions of Chiquitos)

Phonology

Consonants

	<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	p	t̪	t	tʃ	k	ʔ
<u>Fricative</u>	β		s	ʃ		
<u>Rhotic</u>			r			
<u>Nasal</u>	m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
<u>Approximant</u>	w			j		

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	i	ɨ	u
<u>Close-mid</u>	e		o
<u>Open</u>	a		

[9]

Nasal assimilation

Chiquitano has regressive assimilation triggered by nasal nuclei / ɛ̃ ɪ̃ ʊ̃ ɔ̃ ẵ ẽ̃/ and targeting consonant onsets within a morpheme.

- /suβũ/ → [suˈmũ] ‘parrot (sp.)’^[10]

Syllable structure

The language has CV, CVV, and CVC syllables. It does not allow complex onsets or codas. The only codas allowed are nasal consonants.

Vocabulary

Loukotka (1968) lists the following basic vocabulary items for different dialects of Chiquito (Chiquitano).^[11]

gloss	Chiquito	Yúnkarirsh	San Simoniano	Churápa
tooth	oh-ox		oän	noosh
tongue	otús		natä	iyúto
foot	popez	popess	pipín	ípiop
woman	pais	páirsh	paá	páish
water	toʔus	tush		túʔush
fire	péz	péesh		peés
sun	suur	suursh	sóu	súush
manioc	tauax	táhuash	tabá	tawásh
tapir	okitapakis	tapakish		oshtápakish
house	ogox	póosh		ípiosh
red	kiturixi	kéturuk		kéturikí

For a vocabulary list of Chiquitano by Santana (2012),^[12] see the corresponding [Portuguese article](#).

Further reading

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- Nikulin, Andrey. 2019. *¡Manityaka au r-ózura! Diccionario básico del chiquitano migueleño: El habla de San Miguel de Velasco y de San Juan de Lomerío*.

References

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- Fabre, Alain (2008-07-21). "Chiquitano" (<http://www.ling.fi/Entradas%20diccionario/Dic=Chiquitano.pdf>) (PDF). *Diccionario etnolingüístico y guía bibliográfica de los pueblos indígenas sudamericanos*. Retrieved 2009-01-16.

External links

- [Lenguas de Bolivia](http://www.ru.nl/lenguasdebolivia/) (<http://www.ru.nl/lenguasdebolivia/>) (online edition)
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